



The Big Six - Common workplace hazards and precautions

Job safety starts with hazard identification—learning to recognize and respond to situations that could cause accidents. Here are six of the most common workplace hazards, along with tips on how to avoid them:

- 1. Chemicals.** Always check a chemical's label and material safety data sheet (MSDS) or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before use. Find out about the hazards, and follow instructions for using the chemical safely.
- 2. Untidy work areas.** Prevent slips, trips, and falls by keeping materials out of aisles and off stairs. Put tools and materials you're not using in their proper place. Clean up liquid spills.
- 3. Back injuries.** Learn to lift properly so that your legs, not your back, do the work. Get mechanical or human help with large, awkward loads.
- 4. Machinery.** Keep machine guards in place, maintain machines properly, and pay close attention while you work.
- 5. Lack of PPE.** Always use assigned personal protective equipment and inspect it before each use.
- 6. Electricity.** Prevent deadly electrical shock by following all rules regarding safe use of electrical power equipment.

Keep alert to these hazards and others that relate to your job. If you're not sure about a hazard or a safety instruction, ask your supervisor. If you can't safely correct a hazard yourself, report it right away.